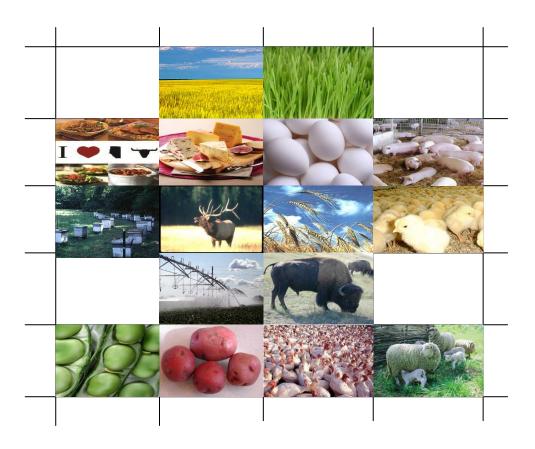
Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council



Annual Report 2011/2012

Government of Alberta

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Alberta Agriculture Marketing Council (Council), I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

Council's vision is to work with Alberta's 21 agricultural boards and commissions to strategically lead a prosperous agriculture industry. This vision embraces our philosophy of being enabling and co-creating solutions with industry.

To achieve this vision, Council is focused on three primary goals:

- Enhancing industry leadership
- Developing policy and legislative frameworks that enable industry
- 3. Serving and providing value to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and to the agricultural boards and commissions

2011/2012 was a year of growth and change for Council. In relation to our work in the area of board governance, we continue to see many boards and commissions enhancing their governance practices, which ultimately leads to better organizations. Council has worked hard in continuing to improve its board governance policies and practices; we recognize the importance of "walking the talk" in relation to board governance. The All Boards and Commissions Meeting held in January 2012 was identified by many participants as an excellent forum for networking and learning more about governance, and for engaging youth in our industry.

Council received several industry requests for regulatory amendments – many related to implementing better governance practices. It is important that industry remain proactive in ensuring that their regulations support and enable the industry to move forward. A significant portion of Council's time was also spent working with Alberta's wheat and oat producers relative to forming new commissions for wheat and oats. It is exciting to see the wheat industry come together in wanting to form a wheat commission for all classes of wheat grown in

Alberta. Similarly, the collaborative approach taken by oat producers will help ensure that Western Canada's oat industry grows and prospers.

Council saw a number of staff changes during the past year as Dave Burdek, our General Manager, took on another challenge within the Department in September 2011. Council sincerely thanks Dave for his three years with Council. Freda Molenkamp-Oudman has taken on the role of General Manager in an acting capacity. Council appreciated Freda's willingness to take on the challenge of leading Council and strongly supports her effort in this role. In November 2011, a new staff member, Rita Hicks, joined Council.

Looking ahead, the next ten years will certainly bring more changes as we see a growing world population, escalating food safety concerns, numerous exciting research and market development opportunities, and the consumers' desire for enhanced communication regarding their food. Council is excited to work with the boards and commissions as they strategically lead with purpose and focus.

In closing, Council would like to thank both the current and past Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development for their support to Council, and the boards and commissions. I would like to thank my fellow Council members for their leadership over the past year, and our staff for their excellent work and dedication to the agriculture industry in Alberta.

Doris Ludlage



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

"People change:

- ...when they hurt so much they have to
- ...when they learn so much they want to
- ...when they receive so much they are able to."

Life is full of change; and we all make changes for different reasons. Sometimes opportunities arise that we cannot refuse. Other times, we find those around us have changed and thus we too need to respond, while other times, we lead the change we want to see in our lives.

2011/2012 was a year of change for the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council (Council). We have seen changes in the industry, in the 21 boards and commissions, in government, and within our own Council.

In looking at Alberta's agricultural industry, one only needs to think about the Canadian Wheat Board to realize that change can have a significant impact on an entire industry. Council has also seen the hog industry make changes as they continue to respond to the numerous challenges that face their industry. It is encouraging to see the leadership that Alberta's 21 agricultural boards and commissions continue to demonstrate as they work with industry to manage these changes and to create new opportunities.

Many of the boards and commissions have also experienced changes in their own organizations as new general managers were hired and new board members took office. Council has also seen several boards and commissions embrace changes around their board room tables as they implemented some of the new board governance practices they learned at the Board Governance Excellence Workshops. Many boards now have written board policies, director removal provisions, and enhanced election processes.

In the last year, Alberta's agricultural industry has had three different Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development. Council is sincerely appreciative of the work that former Ministers Hayden and Berger

conducted on behalf of our industry, and we look forward to working with Minister Olson as he leads the industry forward over the next years.

As we move forward into a new year, the changes will continue to be many. The challenge will be how we will respond. I have full confidence that Alberta's agricultural industry has the leadership capacity to manage the many changes and challenges that will arise. Similarly, I know that Council will remain focused on its role to support and enable the 21 agricultural boards and commissions to embrace the future.



Freda Molenkamp-Oudman



SECTION I: COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Roles and Responsibilities

Council is an agency established under the authority of the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA). Council advises the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on matters related to the establishment, operation, and management of the agricultural boards and commissions established under MAPA.

Alberta has 7 agricultural marketing boards:

- Alberta Chicken Producers
- Alberta Hatching Egg Producers
- Alberta Milk
- Alberta Sugar Beet Growers
- Alberta Turkey Producers
- Alberta Vegetable (Processing) Growers
- Egg Farmers of Alberta

Marketing boards control the production and/or marketing of the regulated product and operate with a non-refundable service charge

There are currently 14 agricultural commissions operating in Alberta:

- Alberta Seed Commission
- Alberta Barley Commission
- Alberta Beef Producers
- Alberta Canola Producers Commission
- Alberta Elk Commission
- Alberta Peace Region Forage Seed Growers
- Alberta Lamb Producers
- Alberta Pork
- Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
- Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission
- Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission
- Beekeepers Commission of Alberta
- Bison Producers of Alberta
- Potato Growers of Alberta

Commissions have an important role in advocacy, research and development funding, and market development. These commissions have a refundable service charge (all producers pay a service charge but can request a full or partial refund).

Our Vision Boards and commissions strategically lead a prosperous agricultural industry in Alberta.

Our Mission

We support
leadership
development,
provide
integrated policy
advice, and
administer
effective
legislation for the
benefit of the
agricultural
industry and
government.

The boards' and commissions' primary responsibilities are to initiate and carry out projects and/or programs to commence, stimulate, increase or improve the production and/or marketing of an agricultural product in accordance with the regulations and policies that are enabled by their regulated authority.

Council provides assistance and advice to the 21 agricultural boards and commissions on issues relating to board governance, leadership development, strategic and business planning, and regulatory matters.

Council also provides administrative support to the Appeal Tribunal, formed under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*, to hear appeals under a number of statutes and regulations governing the agricultural boards and commissions.

Strategic Framework

Council has three strategic goals that guided Council's work in 2011/2012:

- 1. Enhancing industry leadership
- 2. Developing policy and legislative frameworks that enable industry
- 3. Serving and providing value to our owner (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development) and our customers (21 agricultural boards and commissions)

Organizational Structure

Council reports directly to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD).

The Appeal Tribunal also reports directly to the Minister of ARD.

Council works closely with the Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC). FPCC is a national body that oversees the operations of Canadian agricultural agencies with national marketing plans (primarily supply management) and the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency.

Council is a member of the National Association of Agricultural Supervisory Agencies which is made up of federal, provincial and territorial Marketing Councils. The provincial members work together to support the continuation of agricultural boards and commissions in Canada.

Composition of Council

The Council Board is comprised of five producers representing public and industry interests, and one ARD Ministry representative. Council Board members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Council Board is supported by Council staff.

Council Board Members

Doris Ludlage (Chair) Kenton Ziegler (Vice-Chair) Bruce Beattie

Jurgen Preugschas Teri McKinnon

Jamie Curran (Ministry representative)

Council Staff Members

Freda Molenkamp-Oudman (Acting General Manager)

Maryann Urbanowski

Mike Pearson

Rachid El Hafid

Rita Hicks

Tunde Vari



Back (L to R): Rachid El Hafid, Jamie Curran, Bruce Beattie, Dave Burdek, Kenton Ziegler, Jurgen Preugschas, Mike Pearson, Maryann Urbanowski

Front (L to R): Tunde Vari, Teri McKinnon, Doris Ludlage, Freda Molenkamp-Oudman Missing: Rita Hicks

Financial Performance

Council operates under the budget of ARD. Council complies with ARD's financial processes for budget planning and financial reporting. Council's resource requirements are incorporated into the ARD Ministry's Business Plan.

In addition to operating funds received from ARD, Council secured funding through *Growing Forward*, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement. These funds were utilized to support various industry leadership and board governance initiatives including the All Boards and Commissions Meeting and numerous board governance workshops.

SECTION II: COUNCIL RESULTS ANALYSIS

Strategic Goal 1 - Enhancing Industry Leadership

This goal recognizes the continued need to support effective governance and leadership practices in building a sustainable and competitive agriculture industry.

This goal includes the initiatives delivered and/or supported by Council with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and use of sound governance practices by agriculture-related organizations, Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) staff, and Council. Activities under this goal included providing or supporting learning opportunities on board governance and leadership. Examples in 2011/2012 included workshops, cross-commodity forum, and the development and distribution of various resources relative to effective governance practices.

Highlights of Accomplishments

Learning opportunities on board governance:

- Council continued to provide workshops on governance practices. Twelve workshops were conducted with over 300 participants representing 65 different organizations.
- Feedback received from participants in these workshops was very positive. The participants' satisfaction rate was 100%.
- Council conducted a survey of all boards and commissions, agricultural societies, and rural utility organizations to better understand their board governance needs. Based on the feedback received, several new workshops were developed and delivered in various locations around the province.
- In addition to organizing these workshops on board governance, Council shared governance resources with boards and commissions, ARD staff, and other agricultural organizations upon request.
- Council worked with 11 organizations to complete an assessment of their respective board governance using the Strive! Governance Excellence Model assessment tool.
- Council provided a one-day training session on board governance for ARD staff.

"Information was all very interesting and will be very useful into the future"

Board governance workshop participant Council hosted a one-day meeting of the 21 agricultural boards and commissions operating under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA). Over 120 board directors and staff representing the marketing boards and commissions gathered to network, discuss common issues of interest, and interact with ARD's Minister, Executive Team and Council.

Participant's feedback on this meeting was very positive:

- 48% of respondents rated the workshop as "Excellent" and a further
 48% rated it as "Good".
- 84% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the meeting's content was relevant to their needs.
- 92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the event covered useful topics.

Participants identified that the top three most valuable aspects of the workshop were:

- Networking and sharing of information and ideas
- Round table topic discussions
- Time spent with the Minister at the Q&A session

There was overwhelming support for holding this event annually. As a result, Council is planning a similar meeting in 2012/2013.

Internally, Council established a Governance Committee to assist with Council's governance matters. The Committee led Council through a thorough review of Council's policies and procedures. Additionally, Council approved the practice of conducting annual performance reviews of all Council members. This will be supported by a Learning Plan for each Council member to help build leadership and governance capacity.

Council spent a day working together to map out future opportunities and challenges. This resulted in the renewal of Council's Strategic Plan.

Strategic Goal 2 – Developing Policy and Legislative Frameworks that Enable Industry

This goal recognizes the need and importance of effective policies, legislation and regulations in enabling the growth of a competitive and sustainable agriculture and food industry.

This goal includes initiatives to develop and/or review and update policies, legislation, and regulations to ensure continuous effectiveness

"..Terrific way to regroup every year and take stock and learn a lot.." Participant at the All Boards and Commissions meeting

Payment of service charge (check-off) is mandatory. As a result of Bill 43, producers have now the option to request full, partial, or no

refund.

Council administers 78 regulations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Art. and relevance in response to current and future market, environment, and social conditions. Developing and/or administering legislation, regulations and policies that enable industry growth and competitiveness remains a core business for Council.

Highlights of Accomplishments

All required regulatory reviews were completed and all expiring regulations were renewed. Thirty-one regulations were filed, and 18 were initiated and are expected to be completed during the first half of the 2012/2013 fiscal year.

In compliance with the ongoing Government of Alberta regulatory review initiative, five mandatory regulatory reviews were completed and another one was initiated. The purpose of mandatory regulatory reviews is to ensure that each regulation under MAPA is regularly assessed for ongoing relevancy and necessity.

As a result of Bill 43, which made service charges refundable for all commissions under MAPA. Council worked with the Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Pork and the Potato Growers of Alberta to complete the required regulatory amendments to transition these organizations to refundable commissions.

At the request of industry, Council completed 19 regulatory amendment projects, initiated two regulatory amendments, and initiated six new regulations to establish the proposed Alberta Oat Growers Commission and the Alberta Wheat Commission.

Council assessed over 40 regulations under MAPA for compliance with the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) between Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Council determined that the regulations are compliant with the NWPTA and do not hinder trade, investment or labour mobility.

Developing, reviewing and/or amending the boards' and commissions' regulations serve different industry purposes and needs. Below are examples that demonstrate how industry benefited from the regulatory amendments:

- 1. The Alberta Pulse Growers Commission Plan Regulation was amended to update the definition of "dealer" to remove confusion regarding the responsibility to collect and remit service charge dollars to the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. The result is reduced slippage and increased revenue to fund industry initiatives.
- 2. The Alberta Chicken Producers Marketing Regulation was amended relating to the stocking density and the production sleeve. Changing the stocking density will enable chicken producers in Alberta to comply with the Animal Care Program and enhance animal welfare. The amendment giving the board authority to change the production sleeve by board order will enable the chicken producers to respond more efficiently and effectively to seasonal market factors.
- 3. Amendments were made to increase the service charge rates for Alberta Milk and the Alberta Elk Commission. The increased revenue will be used to enhance services to producers, as well as fund additional research and market development projects.
- 4. Regulatory amendments were made for three boards and commissions to increase board member terms from two three-year terms to three three-year consecutive terms. The organizations believe the increased tenure will enable them to better serve the interests of their respective industries, provincially and at the national level.
- 5. Amendments were made to the Alberta Pork regulations to enable implementation of the hog traceability system in Alberta. This national initiative is a foundation for managing industry risks and supporting food safety and animal health. The integrity of this system may also translate into market opportunities for Alberta's livestock and meat industries to differentiate their products.

Policy

Development of enabling policies associated with boards and commissions remains an important role for Council. Overall, these policies are intended to address current and future industry needs and enable boards and commissions to embrace effective governance practices.

- Three boards and commissions have adopted the Board Director Term of Office policy. As a result, Council worked with these organizations to make the required regulatory changes. The Board Director Term of Office policy framework supports a request from industry to enable an additional term for board members and is intended to support regular board renewal. Additionally, it supports the industry boards and commissions with a limited board member eligibility pool to more effectively build capacity and utilize board member experience for an additional three-year term.
- Board Director Removal Policy
 This year, another commission adopted the Board Director Removal policy.
 This policy provides boards of directors with the ability and the supporting tools to remove a director as required, while protecting the board of directors from potential legal liabilities.

Strategic Goal 3 – Serving and Providing Value to Our Owner (Minister) and Customers (Boards and Commissions)

This goal recognizes the importance of understanding the expectations of our Minister and the challenges and opportunities of the 21 agricultural boards and commissions.

This goal includes initiatives aimed at increased understanding of Council's role as well as our owner's and customers' needs. Ultimately, the goal is to better serve our owner and our customers for the benefit of the agriculture industry as a whole.

Highlights of Accomplishments

Liaison between the Minister and the boards and commissions

As indicated in a previous section, Council hosted a productive one-day session attended by the Minister ARD, ARD Executives, other ARD staff, and representatives of the 21 boards and commissions.

Engagement with Owner - Understanding Owner's needs and expectations

- The Mandate and Roles document, which outlines respective roles, mandates, and responsibilities of Council and the Minister of ARD, was reviewed and updated. The document helps ensure mutual understanding of the Minister's and Council's roles.
- Council met several times with the Minister, Deputy Minister, and members of the ARD Executive Team in an effort to enhance dialogue between Council and the Ministry. Council kept the Minister informed about activities and achievements of Council through regular correspondence following each Council meeting.

Engagement with Customers - Understanding Customers' needs and expectations

- Council created opportunities for all boards and commissions to interact with Council and ARD staff.
 - Council hosted and organized three
 "Brown Bagger" sessions. Board
 members and senior staff of the Alberta
 Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey
 Producers, and the proposed wheat
 commission presented information to
 ARD staff relative to their respective
 industries, their needs, challenges and
 opportunities. These information
 sessions also provide an opportunity to
 increase awareness among the boards
 and commissions of the programs and
 services available to them through ARD.
 - Council met with the Steering Committees of the proposed Alberta Oat Growers Commission and the Alberta Wheat Commission as part of

"Excellent presentation. Thanks for putting these sessions on."

Participant at the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers Brown Bagger Session



ARD staff attending the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers Brown Bagger session

"Now I have a better understanding of how turkey breeding and farming works. Thanks."

Participant at the Alberta Turkey Producers Brown Bagger session

"Both Fantastic presenters- Felt privileged to gain knowledge from their perspectives and experience" Participant at the proposed wheat commission Brown Bagger session. Council's on-going initiative to meet with all the boards and commissions to discuss pertinent issues in the industry and to enhance on-going dialogue around strategic initiatives.

- As noted in Goal 1, Council hosted a very successful All Boards and Commissions Meeting on January 30, 2012. The event provided numerous opportunities for dialogue and knowledge sharing.
- Council members and staff attended numerous industry
 meetings throughout the year including regional and annual
 meetings. Attending industry meetings provided Council with
 the opportunity to learn more about the industry's challenges
 and opportunities and ensure that MAPA and the supporting
 regulations continue to enable industry to appropriately and
 effectively respond.

SECTION III: MARKETING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INFORMATION

The 21 marketing boards and commissions, created under the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA), serve as the voice of the industry they represent. More information can be obtained by contacting the boards and commissions directly or by visiting their website.



Alberta Barley Commission

#200, 3601A-21 Street NE Calgary, AB T2E 6T5 Telephone: 403-291-9111 Fax: 403-291-0190

Email: barleyinfo@albertabarley.com Website: www.albertabarley.com



Alberta Beef Producers

#320, 6715-8 Street NE Calgary, AB T2E 7H7 Telephone: 403-275-4400 Fax: 403-274-0007

Email: abpfeedback@albertabeef.org
Website: www.albertabeef.org



Alberta Canola Producers Commission

#170, 14315-118 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6 Telephone: 780-454-0844 Fax: 780-451-6933

Email: web@canola.ab.ca
Website: www.canola.ab.ca



Alberta Chicken Producers

2518 Ellwood Drive SW Edmonton, AB T6X 0A9 Telephone: 780-488-2125 Fax: 780-488-3570

Email: abcp@chicken.ab.ca
Website: www.chicken.ab.ca



Alberta Elk Commission

48 Campbell Road Leduc, AB T9E 8C8 Telephone: 780-980-7582 Fax: 780-980-7591

Email: <u>info@albertaelk.com</u>
Website: www.albertaelk.com



Alberta Hatching Egg Producers

#301, 8925-51 Avenue Edmonton, AB T6E 5J3 Telephone: 780-434-8414

Fax: 780-434-9552

Email: ahemb@telusplanet.net

Website: www.albertahatchingeggs.ca



Alberta Lamb Producers

Agriculture Centre 97 East Lake Ramp NE Airdrie, AB T4A 0C3 Telephone: 403-948-8533 Fax: 403-912-1455 Email: info@ablamb.ca

Website: www.ablamb.ca



Alberta Milk

1303-91 Street SW Edmonton, AB T6X 1H1 Telephone: 780-453-5942 Fax: 780-455-2196

Email: msouthwood@albertamilk.com
Website: www.albertamilk.com

Alberta Peace Region Forage Seed Growers

Alberta Peace Region Forage Seed Growers

Box 6135

Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H6 Telephone: 877-630-2198 Fax: 250-789-6884

Email: sburton@xplornet.com
Website: www.peaceforageseed.ca



Alberta Pork

4828-89 Street

Edmonton, AB T6E 5K1 Telephone: 780-474-8288 Fax: 780-479-5128

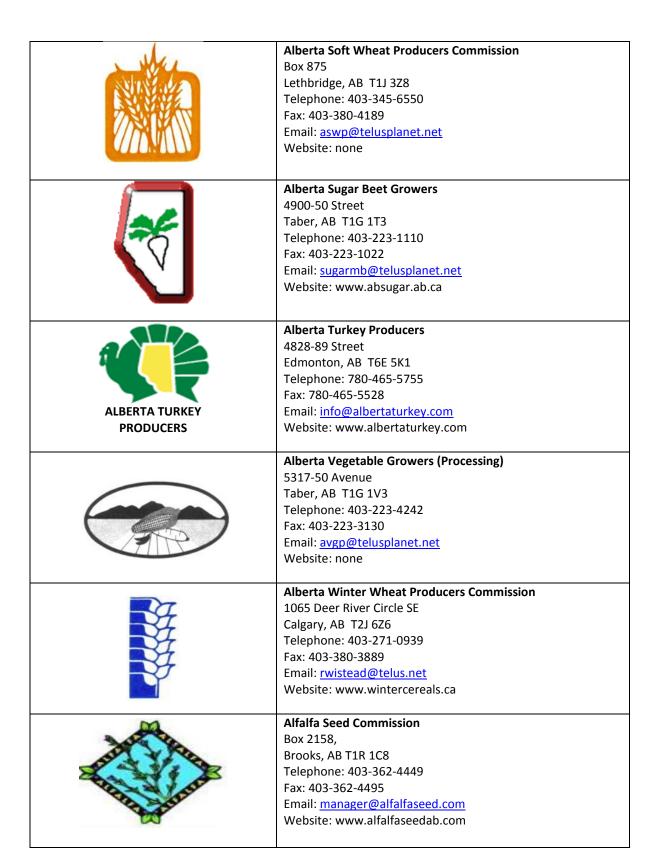
Email: info@albertapork.com
Website: www.albertapork.com

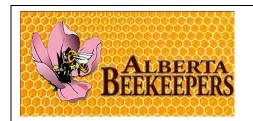


Alberta Pulse Growers Commission

#220 5906-50 Street Leduc, AB T9E 0R6 Telephone: 780-986-9398 Fax: 780-980-2570

Email: office@pulse.ab.ca
Website: www.pulse.ab.ca





Beekeepers Commission of Alberta

#102, 11434-168 Street Edmonton, AB T5M 3T9 Telephone: 780-489-6949

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Email: gertie.adair@albertabeekeepers.org
Website: www.albertabeekeepers.org



Bison Producers of Alberta

#114, 501 – 11 Avenue Nisku, AB T9E 7N5 Telephone: 780-955-1995 Fax: 780-955-1990

Email: info@bisoncentre.com
Website: www.bisoncentre.com



Egg Farmers of Alberta

#101, 90 Freeport Blvd NE Calgary, AB T3J 5J9
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Fax: 403-291-9216
Email: info@eggs.ab.ca

Website: www.eggs.ab.ca



Potato Growers of Alberta

6008-46 Avenue Taber, AB T1G 2B1 Telephone: 403-223-2262 Fax: 403-223-2268

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